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This Story Drew Fire Of Dulles

CIA, THE INSIDE STORY By
Andrew Tully William Morrow
276 pp. \$4.50.

"Does Macy's tell Gimbel's?" The ancient joke was my recurring reaction to this pleasant round-up of information about "our government's most secret organization." A variation on that theme was to the effect that if an outfit is truly secret, how can you write a book about it? And if you can, should you?

On the other hand, ours is self-government by free men. Its manifestations include a minimum of censorship, freedom of the press, and the ineffable right of the people to know. If we want to talk, it's our privilege, even if Ivan does take Berlitz lessons on English and a copy of this book, in Russian, probably reposes in the NKVD library right now.

Actually, while this purports to be an "inside" story, examination indicates that a lot of it derives from newspaper accounts of the various post-WWII crises with which it deals. The conditional and past imperfect verb forms reinforce the suggestion that you're reading something you've never seen before. Mostly you aren't, but unless you've been keeping your own scrap-book this comprehensive picture of the CIA's activities is the first of its kind, and useful for that reason alone.

The technical details — the secret letter drop in the Montmartre dance studio, the Hong Kong export firm set up as a cover for a CIA agent, the German ex-general who delivers information to both sides, electronic espionage — these have been painfully delineated in a hundred motion pictures, all starring Orson Welles, and a thousand novels, most of them by Geoffrey Household. No unfortunate revelations here.

It was surprising, however, to learn the extent to which CIA goes beyond its function as an information-gathering mechanism to intrude on the formulation and execution of foreign policy. The CIA-FBI debate over internal and external security responsibilities is another interesting chapter, even if its implications chill the marrow and bring sweat to the brow.

Newspaperman Tully has covered the White House and the CIA over a period of 13 years, and has reported on the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, the Caribbean and South America. He writes a nice book.

PATRICK LAUGHLIN

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW